THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • AUGUST 21, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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SPAIN: CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD AFTER BEATING ENGLAND

In the first women's final for both nations, Spain emerged victorious against England 1-0 to win the World Cup in Sydney

CAPTAIN CARMONA COMES THROUGH AGAIN

Captain Olga Carmona gave Spain the lead in the first half. With her goal in the 29th minute in Sydney. She became only the seventh player to score a goal in both the semifinals and the final. Spain's Jennifer Hermoso couldn't convert a penalty following a handball by Keira Walsh in the second half. But it didn't matter as England couldn't fashion any clear-cut openings

CONTROVERSY OVER SPANISH COACH VILDA

- The 42-year-old continued to coach the side despite several players requesting his sacking over mistreatment. Upon Spanish FA's inaction, 15 players ruled themselves out of the World Cup squad in protest.
- England coach Sarina Wiegman could be one of the names tipped to take over from Gareth Southgate | PTI

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NO. OF GOALS SPAIN SCORED AT THE WOMEN'S CUP

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Russia's lunar mission fails as lander crashes

Luna-25 spins out of control, collides with the Moon's surface

The Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the moon lander Luna-25 takes off from a launch pad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russia's Far East on August 11 | AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

RUSSIA's Luna-25 crashed into the Moon hours before the spacecraft's scheduled soft-landing on the lunar surface, Russia's space agency Roscosmos said on Sunday. This leaves India's Chandrayaan-3 the only mission in the race to touch down on the Moon's south pole, known for its difficult terrain.

The Russian spacecraft had reached lunar orbit earlier this week, sending back high-resolution photos of the dark side of the Moon. Its landing was scheduled to take place on August 21.

Roscosmos said it lost contact with Luna-25 on Saturday after the spacecraft spun into an incorrect orbit. "Measures taken to locate the craft and make contact with it were unsuccessful," the agency added.

It said a ministerial investigation would be launched into the causes of the crash, without giving any indication of what technical problems might have occurred.

Luna-25, Russia's first lunar mission in 47 years, was launched on August 11. Its predecessor, Luna-24, was launched in 1976.

Luna-25 was part of Russia's lunar programme for the exploration and practical use of the Moon and its orbit to establish a fully automated lunar base.

The crash could impact Russia's moon programme, which envisages several more missions.

Russian scientists have reportedly been raising concerns about the country's space programme being weakened by unrealistic vanity projects, corruption and a decline in the rigour of scientific education system.

Roscosmos boss Yuri Borisov had said the venture would be "risky", telling President Vladimir Putin that its success rate was only around 70%.

Countdown for Chandrayaan's soft-landing on

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE Chandrayaan-3 Mission on Sunday completed its second and final deboosting of Vikram Lander as it moves closer to scripting history on August 23. With Luna-25, the Russian mission to the Moon, crashing on the lunar surface on Saturday, Chandrayaan-3 is the sole contender to claim a soft landing on the Moon.

For Chandrayaan-3, this was a critical deboosting manoeuvre for the mission as it completed all of the Moon's orbits which occurred around 2 am on Sunday. It is set to touch down on the Moon at 6.04 pm on Wednesday.

"The second de-orbiting manoeuvre for the Lander Module (LM) of Chandrayaan3 spacecraft was performed successfully today. Now the orbit of LM is 25 km x 134 km. The health of the Lander Module (LM) is normal," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) stated in its update. With this manoeuvre, the required orbit for the now automated Lander Module will commence its descent towards the Moon's surface, the space agency added.

The Vikram module will undergo internal checks and will wait for sunrise at the designated landing site. P8

Tharoor, Sharma, Pilot in revamped CWC

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

Shashi Tharoor

Anand Sharma

Sachin Pilot

AHEAD of the crucial Assembly elections and the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress on Sunday reconstituted the Congress Working Committee (CWC). Shashi Tharoor, Anand Sharma and Mukul Wasnik — three members of the group of 23 dissident leaders who had called for reforms within the party — and disgruntled Rajasthan leader Sachin Pilot have been brought into the party's apex decision-making body.

The revamped CWC includes senior party leaders Manmohan Singh, K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, A K Antony, Ambika Soni, Meira Kumar, Digvijaya Singh, P Chidambaram, and Tariq Anwar, besides party president Mallikarjun Kharge as well as members of the Gandhi family.

Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Pilot's inclusion in the committee is seen as an attempt to placate him ahead of the Assembly elections in the state later this year. He had been at loggerheads with fellow Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over power-sharing.

Pilot took to social media to express his gratitude to the party leadership. "We all will strengthen the customs and ideology of the Congress and take it more strongly to the people," he wrote on X.

Manish Tewari and Veerappa Moily, who were also part of the group, have been made permanent invitees to the CWC.

Though the party amended its constitution in February to provide a 50% horizontal reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, women, youngsters, and minorities in the CWC, the composition of the new panel doesn't reflect the promise. There are only 15 women in the 84-member CWC, including six general members, four permanent invitees, and five special invitees.

Also, contrary to the party's promise that half of its permanent members in the newly constituted CWC will be under 50 years of age, only three members — Pilot, Gaurav Gogoi, and Kamaleshwar Patel — are under that age limit.

The reconstituted CWC body has 39 permanent members, 18 permanent invitees, 14 state and four organizational incharges, and nine special invitees.

All-party meet on Wednesday to discuss water disputes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE government has called for an all-party meeting on Wednesday to discuss a slew of water disputes involving Karnataka – Cauvery, Mahadayi, Krishna and other water issues, including the situation in dams.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said the all-party meeting will discuss these issues in the light of a poor monsoon this year. "We are filing a petition in the Supreme Court tomorrow. We have already requested the authority to reconsider its decision to release water. It is our duty to protect the interests of farmers. The court's decision should also be given priority."

Speaking about legal issues facing Karnataka, he said the advocate-general will be the best person to decide how to fight the legal battle.

The all-party meeting promises to be a stormy affair, with the challenge thrown up by a weak monsoon, a legal mandate to release water and an aggressive opposition urging that water should not be released..

Reacting to attempts of the BJP and JDS to push the government on to the backfoot by demanding that water should not be released to Tamil Nadu as mandated by law, he said, "The BJP and JDS are trying to politicise the issue unnecessarily. Are they are not aware of what happened when they were in power? The all-party meeting will ensure no one scores brownie points by politicising the issue." Asked about the BJP's proposal to protest and block the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway on Monday, Shivakumar said, "The BJP claims it's a road, and many lives have been lost on that stretch. They are welcome to protest."

CID PROBE

Fake letter against min: 2 detained

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

AT a time when a letter allegedly written by agriculture officers against Minister N Chaluvaraya Swamy created a political storm in the state, CID sleuths who are investigating the case detained two department officials on Sunday.

Sources in the investigation team said the detained – Shivaprasad and Gurudatt, who are from KR Pete taluk in Mandya district – have been working in the Mysuru office of the department. The investigation moved forward and the two were detained following pressure from the chief minister's office and the minister. The CID sleuths are trying to find out from the detained officials whether they wrote the letter of their own will or were influenced by their higher-ups, the sources added.

Chaluvaraya Swamy

The CID has been tasked with investigating the case after the minister and department officials claimed that the letter written to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlow was fake and aimed at defaming the minister. P4

Flyer molests air hostess on flight from Male, jailed

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

A 51-year-old Maldives resident molested an air hostess who came to serve him and behaved obscenely with two other women cabin crew members on an IndiGo flight from Male to Bengaluru on Friday evening (August 18). After landing at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), he was arrested and sent to jail, the police said.

Akram Ahmed, who is from Male in Maldives, has been booked under Sections 354 (assault or use of criminal force on any woman intending to outrage her modesty) and 409 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of IPC.

The incident occurred on board flight No. 6E 1128 after the flight departed at 3.48 pm from the Velana International Airport in Male. Ahmed, seated in 38D, asked for a glass of beer and cashew nuts, states the FIR copy. A flight attendant brought them over to him.

The complaint states that when taking them from her, the flyer is reported to have remarked, "I have been looking for a girl like you for the last 51 years. How much do you charge for service and when will you be free?"

Ahmed also allegedly handed over a $100 bill to her and told her to pay $10 for what he had ordered and to keep the rest. He also allegedly touched her inappropriately.

CONTINUED ON: P5

TAPAS UAV ON TEST FLIGHT CRASHES IN C'DURGA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

The mangled remains of UAV Tapas after it crashed at Vaddikere village of Chitradurga district on Sunday | EXPRESS

IT was an unusual morning for villagers who witnessed an unmanned testing drone Tapas (Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon) drone, developed by the DRDO, crashing into a groundnut field at Vaddikere village of Hiriyur taluk in Chitradurga district on Sunday.

As soon as the news of the UAV crash spread, hundreds of villagers gathered at the farmland of Siddappa to look at the debris of the vehicle. No one was injured as there was no one in the field at that time.

Tapas 07A-14, a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle – developed by the DRDO, took off for a test flight in the morning from the DRDO facility at Kudhapura near Nayakanahatti Science City in Challakere. But soon after, the scientists lost control of the UAV, resulting in its crash.

Superintendent of Police K Parashuram told *The New Indian Express* that the UAV was on a trial flight. The police and DRDO teams reached the spot and helped scientists recover the vehicle. Villagers, who witnessed the crash, informed the police, who rushed to the spot.

CONTINUED ON: P5

TAPAS – DRDO's Made in India UAV

TAPAS-BH UAV, short for Tactical Aerial Platform for Advanced Surveillance - Beyond Horizon, is an indigenous medium-altitude long-endurance-class unmanned aerial vehicle. It made its inaugural flight appearance at Aero India 2023. The event showcased its capabilities through both static and aerial demonstrations. TAPAS is the DRDO's solution to address the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) requirements of the armed forces. With a flight endurance of over 18 hours, the UAV can operate at altitudes of up to 28,000 feet. TAPAS, previously referred to as Rustom-II, is designed to operate autonomously or under remote control based on pre-programmed flight plans. This versatility enables its operation during both daylight and nighttime conditions.

Murugappa family members settle dispute, withdraw legal proceedings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai/Bengaluru

CHENNAI-based Murugappa Group on Sunday said it has settled the long-standing disputes and differences between Valli Arunachalam, the eldest daughter of M V Murugappan, and rest of the family members. The differences had cropped up after the demise of M V Murugappan.

Valli was locked in a legal battle with other family members as she had sought a board position at Ambadi Investments, the holding company of the group. She demanded a change in the patriarchal norms of the group as female members were not given a place on the board.

As part of the deal, all legal proceedings between the family groups will be withdrawn.

"The members of the Murugappa family first discussed and concluded the terms of the family arrangement amongst themselves at a meeting in the presence of their respective advisors. This understanding was recorded by way of a memorandum entered into by the members of the Murugappa family with the family branch of late M V Murugappan (including Valli Arunachalam and Vellachi Murugappan)," the family said in a joint statement on Sunday.

Necessary transactions in pursuance of the family arrangement will be taken within the next 90 days. It, however, did not divulge the terms of the family arrangment, terming it confidential.

"The family arrangement ensures that all the issues between the members will be settled, and they are happy that they have agreed to resolve this amicably," said representatives for the family in a statement.

Started in 1900, the Murugappa Group operates 29 businesses, including 11 listed companies that include Carborundum Universal, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, Shanthi Gears Ltd and Tube Investments of India, among others.

EXPRESS READ

Former Pakistan foreign minister arrested

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, a close aide of jailed former PM Imran Khan, was arrested from his house here under the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable. Qureshi (67), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's vice-chairman, was arrested on Saturday night and taken to the Federal Investigation Agency's headquarters. He was held for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was foreign minister.

Gunmen kill at least 23 in village in central Mali

BAMAKO (MALI): Armed gunmen killed at least 23 people and wounded 12 in an attack on a village in central Mali, officials said on Sunday. Sidi Mohamed El Bechir, Governor of the Bandiagara region, where the attack took place, said unidentified men killed dozens of people and set fire to several homes in the village of Yarou on Friday. However, the attack has not been claimed yet.

DMK stages hunger strike against NEET

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin on Sunday assured all efforts to ensure NEET exemption for the state, as his son and cabinet minister Udhayanidhi led the DMK's hunger strike demanding abolition of the test. The DMK will not stop till Tamil Nadu gets exemption from the central qualifying test for medical courses, Stalin said, while the BJP slammed the ruling party in the state for "politicising" NEET. P5

Teacher absent for five years, still got paid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Udupi

A primary school teacher at the Government Higher Primary School at Anagalli in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district has not been regular to the school for the last five years, but has been drawing a salary every month.

His subject 'social science' is now being taught by another teacher as he visits the school once a week only to mark his attendance and draw the salary.

After Anagalli Panchayat president Lawrence D'Souza complained to Kundapur BEO Shobha Shetty and following an inquiry, Udupi DDPI K Ganapathi suspended the teacher, Dinakar Shetty.

CONTINUED ON: P5